The English High School, Nagercoil, the new Women's College, Trivandrum, the extension of the chemical laboratory attached to the College of Science, are some of the buildings which were completed or were nearing completion at the end of the year. The outlay on communications is in pursuance of the avowed policy of Government to improve and develop communications as much as possible. The expenditure under this head was also the highest during the past quinquennium, and represents about 9 per cent of the total general revenues of the State. The inadequacy of communications in Central and North Travancore, which was the subject of repeated representations in several sessions of the Assembly, has been appreciably remedied during the past few years. Last year I referred to the importance of the Quilon-Arur road *via* Alleppey and Shertallai, and of the Pallivasal-Neriamangalam road. The first road has been completed, establishing a direct route from the Cape to the Cochin frontier connecting Alleppey and Shertallai which were long inaccessible by land. Substantial progress has also been made in the construction of the ghat road which when completed will make Munnar accessible by a route lying entirely within the State, and will appreciably facilitate trade and cultivation. The length of communications which was 4,769 miles in 1101, increased to 4,973 miles at the end of last year. With the increasing demand for more roads and with a view to co-ordinate the demands, Government propose to organise a Roads and Waterways Board for each P. W. Division and a Central Board for the whole State in each of which representatives of the people will be associated The organisation of these boards will result in a settled roads and canals programme and will remove the inter-divisional competition in the Legislative Council and in this Assembly. The rules regulating the constitution and working of these boards will shortly be published for public criticism. The question of maintaining bridges has received the careful attention of the Chief Engineer. It has been found necessary to test the strength of and examine the suitability of all the existing bridges to stand the strain of modern motor traffic; and a special staff has been sanctioned for the purpose. The Trivandrum water supply scheme was re-investigated and re-designed during the year. The re-alignment of the line for the main supply was completed and the plans and estimates have been prepared. Cast iron pipes of 30" and 35" diameter are now arriving. A new road for the transport of the pipes, etc., to the source of the water supply is nearing completion. The scheme for the Trivandrum electric supply has become an accomplished fact. The lines now cover a length of 14 miles and there remain 12 miles more to complete. The whole work was carried out with commendable promptitude. Work is proceeding on the Neendakara bridge and it is expected that this important connecting link will be ready for traffic by August next.

Railways.

19. The lands required for the extension of the railway to the heart of Trivandrum have almost all been acquired and handed over to the Railway Engineer. The work is making visible progress.

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